

June 8, 2017

DOH-PINELLAS ISSUES ADVISORY FOR FORT DE SOTO'S NORTH BEACH



Contact:

Maggie Hall, PIO

Margarita.Hall@FLHealth.gov

(727) 824-6908 (media only)

The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) has issued an advisory for the waters at Fort De Soto's North Beach based on the marine water bacterial indicator recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This area should be considered a potential health risk to swimmers.

DOH-Pinellas conducts saltwater beach testing through the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program. Water samples are analyzed for enteric bacteria (enterococci) that normally inhabit the intestinal tracts of humans and animals which may cause human disease, infections or rashes.

The presence of enteric bacteria is an indication of fecal pollution, which may come from storm water run-off, pets, wildlife and sewage. The purpose of the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program is to determine whether Florida has significant beach water quality problems.

Water testing results from tests conducted on June 7 are as follows:

ENTEROCOCCI

CFU per 100 ml*
390

Water Quality*
Poor

Weather permitting, the next sampling will be conducted on June 12.

Water quality classifications are based upon the EPA's recommended standard for enterococci of no more than 70 colony forming units per 100 milliliters of marine water.

For more information about the Healthy Beaches Monitoring Program, go to <http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/beach-water-quality/county-detail.html?County=Pinellas&Zip=33701-3109>.

For information about DOH-Pinellas, go to <http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov/index.html> or follow us on Twitter [@HealthyPinellas](https://twitter.com/HealthyPinellas).

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